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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ON TIP INTERIM ASSESSMENT

REF: LAGOS 2301

Classified By: Consul General Brian Browne for reason 1.5(b).

[1](#)1. (U) The information below responds to interim assessment follow-up questions from the November 19, 2004, email from Rachel Yousey.

[1](#)2. (U) Has NAPTIP investigated any of the informant reports of corruption among law enforcement, immigration, and airport officials?

Answer: NAPTIP has begun to pursue some allegedly corrupt officials working at the airports (see paragraph 3). NAPTIP officials said they are taking a cautious approach because of the sensitivity of the issue of corruption. They need to be careful not to engender animosity within the police force and Immigration Service. For their credibility and because of the inertia that sometimes affects the legal system, they know the first cases they pursue must be built on very solid information. They considered their visits to various agencies to warn officials about the new law an important step in laying a foundation for pursuing cases effectively.

[1](#)3. (C) What is NAPTIP doing to address corruption among officials at the airports?

Answer: NAPTIP has requested undercover access to airports from the minister of aviation. The agency has information on TIP syndicates that operate in the airports. Agency officials believe, however, that undercover access is necessary to finish building their cases and to arrest those officials involved in the alleged syndicates. The minister of aviation currently is considering NAPTIP's request.

[1](#)4. (U) Have Immigration Service anti-trafficking units done anything concrete? Are they actually engaged in combating trafficking?

Answer: The units are engaged in combating trafficking. The head of the unit in Edo State reported that they have presented public seminars in all local government areas. They support NAPTIP in surveillance, arrests, and prosecutions. They receive deported victims and provide them a non-accusatory rehabilitative environment. They interview the victims and help them find their relatives or connect them with a shelter.

[1](#)5. (U) What has the Ministry of Labour and Productivity's repatriation program accomplished? How many victims have been provided this food, transportation, and reunification assistance? Does the assistance overlap with that provided by NAPTIP and other programs?

Answer: According to ILO, which funds the Ministry of Labour program, no children have been repatriated through the program yet. With the first round of funding, the Ministry has conducted preparation activities, including training staff in several states and distributing information about the program to Nigerian embassies in other West African countries. ILO expects to release the second funding tranche soon, with a goal of repatriating 100 externally trafficked children and 200 internally trafficked children. It is expected NAPTIP and other agencies will rely on this program for repatriation assistance when victims are identified.

BROWNE